

4 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

The first block of Pennsylvania Ave. has witnessed an evolution of land use typical of Towson itself. The street was laid out in the middle of the last century as part of the courthouse town and was sparsely occupied by residences. By the 20th century there were numerous residences plus some semi-commercial activity as well, although the two story scale of the street was maintained until the 1960's. All through this century residential structures have been used as professional offices. The need for office space, more parking, shops, restaurants, etc. has ultimately resulted in the destruction of residential structures. They have been replaced by asphalted lots and high rise structures and with them came a severe disruption of scale.

At the moment this two story frame house is still being used as a residence and although it is probably less than 100 years in age it has become an antique, for its materials, size and use. That it was moved onto a "back lot" from the street in order to accomodate commercial construction and that it appears lost in a group of larger buildings is symbolic of a trend of land use.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1532

MAG-1-0315325704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tenant House - Elks Lodge (Cowings House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | DATE <u>Fall, 1978</u> |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The residential scale of the first block of W. Pennsylvania Ave. is maintained by the several structures that are nestled in between the two highrises on that block, however, only one structure continues to serve the only purpose for which it was designed. That building is the small frame house on the property of the Elk's Lodge. Although it is not on its original site, the house has always been, and continues to be, a residence.

According to the present tenant the building, once faced Pennsylvania Ave. and existed as part of the streetscape of the north side of the street prior to its being moved to an adjoining lot in the 1950's. It is a very typical building in many ways, being an example of a kind of house common in rural areas.

The house is two stories high of wood frame construction and may have had a stone foundation and cellar. Modern shingles cover clapboards. It is three bays wide, one bay deep and capped with a gable-end roof. The building has been and is still oriented to the South. That facade has a centrally located entrance and is covered on the first story by a shed-roofed porch supported by square columns.

With the exception of the north facade fenestration is consistent with evenly placed 6/6 sash. Shell-shaped cast iron shutter locks are evidence that there were shutters and they were probably louvered.

A centrally located flue-chimney exits the center of the ridge. The roof is covered with the same large fishscale asbestos shingles as those on the Elk's Lodge and as those recorded on the "Penn Hotel" (Dec., 1977).

The north facade breaks the symmetry somewhat by being windowless in the two easternmost bays although the normal 6/6 sash vent the lower and upper levels of the west bay. An off center, shed roofed, single story projection occupies the easternmost bays of the first level. It is approximately 8' deep and one bay long being vented by a small 4/4 sash window. It is used as a storage area and incorporates into the eastern end of its roof a hood for the entrance of this facade.

Although the main (south) entrance is centrally located there is no central hall as such. Instead, the plan provides for two rooms downstairs and two above with the stairs being attached to the east side of the central dividing wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-153Z

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TENANT HOUSE - ELKS LODGE

This building has been moved, however it is believed that this chain of title belongs to the original parcel.

| <u>Liber</u> | <u>Folio</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Grantor</u> | <u>Grantee</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3710 | 337 | June 8, 1960 | Towson Building Co. Inc. | Loyola Federal Savings and Loan Assn. |

"Beginning...north side of Pennsylvania Ave. at a distance 260' measured easterly...from corner formed by the intersection of the north side of Pennsylvania Ave with the east side of Washington Ave...said place of beginning also being at the beginning of a parcel of land ...deed dated May 12, 1925...Land Records...WPC 614/277...conveyed by Nora J. Bruff to Frank A. Persohn, Jr....140'...Northerly 150'...known as 18 and 20 Pennsylvania Ave."

The above deed is a combination of the following two deeds:

| | | | | |
|------|----|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3566 | 10 | July 23, 1959 | Dorothy Virginia Bruff | Towson Building Co., Inc. |
|------|----|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | |
|------|----|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 3575 | 11 | August 10, 1959 | Elsie M. Held | Towson Building Co., Inc. |
|------|----|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|

"Beginning...north side of Pennsylvania Ave...at southwest corner of lot...formerly owned by David Longnecker...150' to south side of alley... 60'...150' to place of beginning."

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 595 | 363 | May 19, 1924 | Carrie L. Massenburg | Charles W. Held & wife |
|-----|-----|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 260 | 300 | May 1, 1902 | Richard C. Massenburg | Carrie L. Massenburg |
|-----|-----|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|

Richard C. Massenburg conveys to wife Carrie his drug store, fixtures and stock therein contained, situate and being in the Stone Store or building on the York Road known as Odd Fellows Hall, his horse, carriages, harness, robes, etc...and all household furniture.

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 246 | 136 | June 8, 1900 | David G. McIntosh, Trustee | Richard C. Massenburg |
|-----|-----|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|

| | | | | |
|----|-----|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 41 | 431 | April 14, 1864 | Washington Townsend | John H. Longnecker |
|----|-----|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|



BA-1532

4 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.
N.W.

W. NIELD
9/78



BA-1532

4 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.
S. E.

W. NIELD
9/78